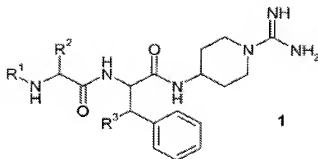


**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A compound according to general formula 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



$R^1$  is selected from H, lower alkyl,  $R^4$ -CO,  $R^4$ -O<sub>2</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>,  $R^5$ -OCO and  $R^5$ -SO<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from lower alkyl, cycloalkyl optionally substituted with an alkyl or alkoxy group, (C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)cycloalkylalkyl optionally substituted with an alkyl or alkoxy group, aralkyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, I, OH, lower alkyl, O-(lower alkyl), O-benzyl, NH<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NH acyl, CN and CF<sub>3</sub>, and aralkyloxymethyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl); or

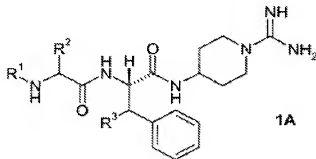
$R^1$ - and  $R^2$ -together form an *o*-xylylene group wherein the aromatic ring moiety of the *o*-xylylene group is optionally substituted with a group selected from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl) (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>) cycloalkylmethyl, benzyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl), phenethyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl) and benzyloxymethyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl);

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from H, OH and O-lower alkyl;

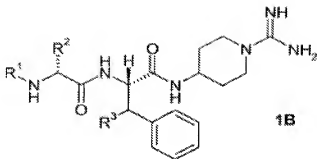
R<sup>4</sup> is selected from H, lower alkyl and phenyl; and

R<sup>5</sup> is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl and benzyl.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from H, lower alkyl, and R<sup>4</sup>-O<sub>2</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>.
3. Canceled.
4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from cyclohexylmethyl, decahydronaphth-2-ylmethyl, benzyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 4-hydroxybenzyl, 4-(lower alkyl)oxybenzyl,  $\alpha$ -hydroxybenzyl,  $\alpha$ -methoxybenzyl, phenethyl and benzyloxymethyl.
5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein the absolute stereochemistry is as depicted in general formula 1A.



6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein the absolute stereochemistry is as depicted in general formula 1B.



7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 selected from
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)-propa- noylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3''-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3''-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(3''-cyclohexyl-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3''-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3''-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)-3''-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
  - (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3''-decahydronaphth-2'''-ylpropanoylamino)-3'-

phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;  
(2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3"-decahydronaphth-2""-yl)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;  
(2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(3"-decahydronaphth-2""-yl-2"-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;  
(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2"-amino-3"-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy- -3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;  
(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3"-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;  
(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(3"-cyclohexyl-2"-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;  
(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2"-amino-3"-(4""-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;  
(2-S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3"-(4""-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)- 3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine; and  
(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(3"-(4""-ethoxyphenyl)-2"-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8-12. Canceled.